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SCIENCE

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1898.

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THE WASHINGTON ACADEMY OF SCIENCES.

THE scientific community of Washington is engaged in modifying its organization. The matter is of general interest, not only because of the importance of the body of investigators there assembled, but because the problems they are attempting to solve are analogous to the problems which confront the national scientific associations. There was a time when the American Association was the only scientific body of national scope, and, though it began as an association of geologists only, it gradually expanded in respect to subject-matter so as to provide sections for all important branches of scientific work. Of late years there has been a strong tendency toward independent organization of bodies of workers in various fields, and a score of national societies devoted to special subjects have sprung into existence, with the result that interest in and attendance on the meetings of the American Association have flagged.

In Washington the original organization was the Philosophical Society (1871), and its scope was as broad as science. Owing to peculiarities of its rules and customs, differentiation could not readily be accom-